

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LILONG 01437 111211Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 ACDA-12 HA-05 IO-13 AID-05 PC-01 /112 W
-----078220 111319Z /43

R 111156Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY LILONGWE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2261
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MPOL, MI
SUBJECT: FORMATION OF MALAWI MILITIA

1. AT SEPTEMBER 9 CEREMONY OFFICIALLY OPENING MALAWI'S
NEW MILITARY COLLEGE, PRESIDENT BANDA ANNOUNCED THAT A
"MILITIA" IS BEING FORMED. HE DID NOT GIVE OTHER DETAILS
EXCEPT THAT HE DESCRIBED THE MILITIA AS "A CIVILIAN ARMY"
WHICH WOULD HELP THE REGULAR ARMY TO DEFEND MALAWI IN
TIMES OF CRISIS AND THAT RECRUITS WOULD BE TRAINED FOR
6 TO 12 WEEKS EACH YEAR IN THEIR OWN DISTRICT.

2. POSSIBILITY OF THE FORMATION OF A MILITIA HAD BEEN
MENTIONED EARLIER (DAOIR NO. 6881006477 DATED 18 MAY 77 AND HAD
ALSO RECENTLY BEEN REPORTED TO US BY MICHAEL BLACKWOOD,
BLANTYRE LAWYER WHO WAS LEADER OF THE EUROPEAN SETTLERS
IN MALAWI BEFORE INDEPENDENCE. ACCORDING TO BLACKWOOD,
ARMY COMMANDER GENERAL MATEWERE HAD RECENTLY BEEN IN
EUROPE SHOPPING FOR WEAPONS FOR THE MILITIA
(PRESUMABLY USED SMALL ARMS) SINCE MATEWERE WOULD
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BE COMMANDER OF THE MILITIA AS WELL AS THE ARMY.

3. COMMENT: WE ARE INCLINED TO FEEL THAT BANDA
IS WORRIED ABOUT CONTINUED AND PERHAPS PROGRESSIVELY
WORSE INSTABILITY IN THIS PART OF AFRICA SINCE THE
RHODESIAN PROBLEM DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE RESOLVING
ITSELF. HE MAY ALSO BE WORRIED THAT EVEN IF THE RHODESIAN

SITUATION IS FINALLY RESOLVED, MALAWI MAY EVENTUALLY
BECOME A TARGET OF LEFT WING FORCES IN AFRICA SINCE
MALAWI'S IDEOLOGICAL ORIENTATION IS RATHER DIFFERENT
FROM THOSE OF ITS NEIGHBORS.

SHEINBAUM

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMED FORCES, COUNTERINSURGENCY
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 sep 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LILONG01437
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780369-0715
Format: TEL
From: LILONGWE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780982/aaaacpvk.tel
Line Count: 68
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9e607053-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1486905
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FORMATION OF MALAWI MILITIA
TAGS: MPOL, MI
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9e607053-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014